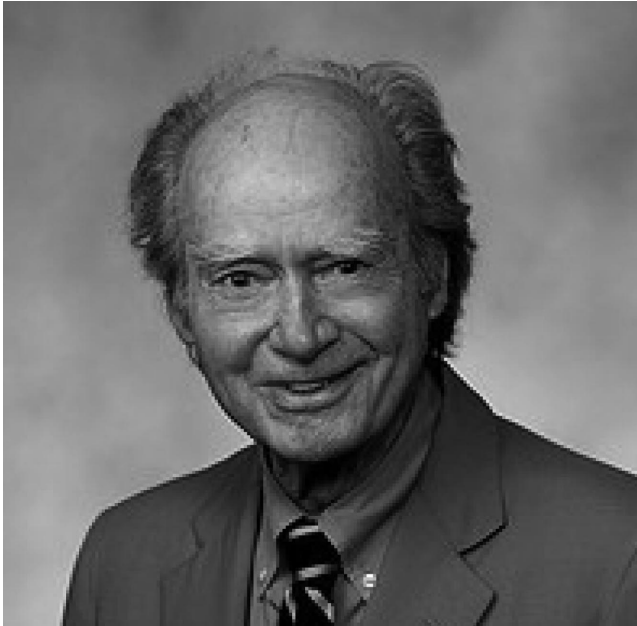


MEMORIAL

HUGH R. BUTT, M.D.
1910–2008



Hugh Butt, master physician, creative scientist, and effective administrator, died on August 16, 2008 in Rochester, Minnesota at the age of 98 after a distinguished career spanning more than 50 years at the Mayo Clinic. He was the last assistant to work directly with Dr. William Mayo, who with his brother, Charles Mayo, founded the Mayo Clinic.

Hugh was born on January 8, 1910 in Bellhaven, NC and grew up in Virginia. He graduated from the University of Virginia Medical School and entered Mayo Graduate School in 1934; he was appointed to the staff in 1938 and spent nearly five decades contributing to all of the elements of the Mayo mission as an educator, researcher, gifted practitioner, and the first Chair of the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology. On April 8, 1939 he married Mary Dempwolf in York, PA. He served in the navy from 1942 to 1946 and was discharged as a lieutenant-commander. His association with the Mayo Clinic included

terms on the Mayo Clinic Board of governors and the Mayo Clinic Board of Trustees. As recently as 2006, at the age of 95, he gave an introductory lecture to first year medical students on the legacy of Drs. Will and Charlie Mayo.

In the early 1960s, he served as President of the two most prestigious medical societies in his field—the American Gastroenterological Association and the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases. In 1973, he served as President of the American College of Physicians and was named a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in London, one of only 20 Americans to be elected to this honorary position at that time.

His research achievements were substantial and included the discovery that Vitamin K stopped bleeding in patients with jaundice, previously a fatal condition. These findings, which he published in 1938 still as a medical resident, changed the practice of hepatology. Three years later, Hugh became interested in the anticoagulation properties of dicumarol and conducted the first human trials using this substance. His pioneering efforts in research earned him one of the American Gastroenterological Association's highest honors, the Julius Friedenwald Medal of Honor. Because of his stature and creativity, Hugh became one of the driving forces for creating the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, heading a \$500 million endowment.

An active and accomplished physician, Hugh developed lifelong friendships with many patients, some of whom were major donors to Mayo Clinic, including Conrad Hilton, J.E. Davis, and Shirley and Miles Fiterman.

Post-retirement, Hugh devoted more time to his long-term interest in art. He was a self taught metal sculpturer and used farm implements, old tools, wire and other metals to create whimsical figures. His sculptures were featured in three solo exhibitions at the Rochester Art Center in Rochester, MN, most recently in 2006, and in two invitational exhibits there. His work was also exhibited in galleries in New York, Texas, Wisconsin and in Minneapolis.

Hugh was a devoted husband, father and grandfather. He is survived by three children; seven grand children; and 12 great grandchildren.

Hugh was a link between the Mayo founders, their values, hopes and dream for the future and will be sadly missed by everyone he touched.

Nicholas F. Larusso M.D.